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the community. It is expedient. We are in the comparatively early days of library development, what are the past thirty or forty years in view of the future? We need to plan on making a satisfactory adequate maintenance as simple and as assured as possible; the results will speak for themselves.

To quote again, I cannot think of a more admirable summary than a passage from Miss Robinson's letter in the March *Public Libraries*:

"If libraries are but a luxury and fad, more ornamental than vitally useful, and

can be dispensed with without loss, well and good. But if we believe them of vital value, let us use the privileges of expediency, let us get for our libraries the support which will enable them to properly function, and in testing them, let us not so handicap them that all their energy must be spent in creating vitality instead of using it."

Don't let us hug our chains. If we cannot free ourselves, well, we will work anyway, but let us admit we are chained and make no bones about what it is that is handicapping our work.

ANNUAL REPORTS, 1920 to 1921

The reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, Publishing Board, Trustees of the Endowment Fund, and most of the Committee reports were published under the title, *Annual Reports*, for distribution at the Conference, and are not reprinted here. A few copies of these *Annual Reports* are available for distribution to those who wish to bind them with the 1921 Bulletin and are indexed with *Proceedings*.

COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICA

The report of this committee was printed separately by the sub-committee. A few copies are available for distribution from A. L. A. headquarters. A summary of this report was printed in the *Library Journal*, August, 1921, pp. 641-642.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

LIBRARY LEGISLATION IN 1921

This digest is based on actual examination of the printed laws except in a few cases. As it goes to press final reports from several states are still lacking. There will therefore be a few omissions as well as possible corrections. It is the intention to collect and publish these in a supplementary report.

Establishment.—New York state, where there has been no general revision of library law in about thirty years, secured various amendments relating to organi-

zation, operation, gifts, transfer of property, abolition of library, eliminating obsolete provisions, simplifying and clarifying others, expanding some which were too restrictive and enlarging others, all to promote the establishment and maintenance of public libraries. Distinction is made between "public," "association" and "free" libraries and a definition of each is given.

One of these provides for library service by contract with a library registered by the regents or with the municipality or district maintaining such library.

An Iowa amendment provides that a contract for rural library service shall remain in force until terminated by a majority vote of the electors. Formerly it could continue only five years without renewal.

Trustees.—An Illinois amendment specifies that library directors in villages under the commission form of government shall be appointed by the mayor with the consent of the commissioners.

Iowa remedied a defect in her law by providing that vacancies on library boards are to be filled by the mayor with the approval of the city council. Formerly such approval was not specified as it was in the case of original appointments.

A New York amendment provides that public library trustees shall be appointed in cities by the mayor, in counties by supervisors, in town by town board, in villages by trustees; in school districts they shall be elected. A member of a municipal body appointing library trustees may not be a trustee. Trustees must meet at least quarterly. The chief executive officer of an association library shall be elected by the trustees from their own number.

Tax levy.—A New York state amendment fixes two mills as the possible maximum library tax in municipalities with an assessed valuation of one million or less; one and one-half mills on more than one million and less than two million; one mill on two millions or over.

In New Jersey one amendment increases the permissive maximum library tax rate from one-sixth to two-thirds of a mill. This is in addition to the mandatory rate of one-third mill. Another removes the limit of \$1,000 which a union of municipalities may raise annually by tax for library purposes.

Illinois passed an amendment increasing the possible maximum library tax levy in cities under 100,000 to one and eight-tenths mill (formerly one and one-third mill) and in cities over 100,000 to eight-tenths mill (formerly two-thirds mill). It also excepts libraries from the scaling under the two per cent reduction clause of the Juul act. Another bill amends the Juul act to permit this exception.

In Missouri an amendment increases the mandatory minimum tax levy in cities of the first class from four-tenths to eight-tenths of a mill. This was introduced at the instance of the St. Joseph Public Library but it applies to all first class cities. Another law amends the charter of the city of St. Joseph by increasing the minimum library tax which the council must appropriate from four-tenths to eight-tenths of a mill. This will increase the library's annual income about \$21,000.

Kansas passed an amendment raising the permissive maximum library tax from one-half mill to one mill in cities of second and third class. Cities of first class already had authority to levy one mill if population was under 40,000; over that, one-fourth mill. The chairman of the Kansas Library Association Legislative Committee says, "This ought to bring a new era in Kansas public libraries."

Wyoming failed to pass an introduced bill fixing the minimum and maximum county library tax levy in counties with an assessed valuation of twenty-five millions or more at three-eighths to one-half mill (now one-eighth to one-half mill for all counties).

Indiana has a unique distinction of passing the only law reducing the library tax levy. An amendment fixes the minimum county library tax at two-tenths of a mill. It was formerly five-tenths, which is no longer necessary on account of a tremendous increase in assessed valuation. The library board still has power to fix the rate and may levy five mills, if that amount is needed. Another Indiana amend-

ment prescribes that the county library tax shall be continued so long as the library is used by ten per cent of the inhabitants of the district concerned. Previously it was ten per cent of the entire county.

In Cleveland an interesting situation developed. The public library there is one of about twenty-five libraries in the state operating under boards appointed by boards of education. The library trustees appointed by the board of education certify to the board of education annually the amount needed for the library during the ensuing year. The board of education up to 1920 transmitted such amount not exceeding one and one-half mills with its own budget which it is authorized to levy for school purposes.

A budget commission reviews the estimates presented by each taxing body and may reduce any and all items so as to keep the total tax levy within the fifteen mill limit prescribed by law. (Originally the limit was 10 mills (1%). The law was, however, amended to 15 mills although it is still familiarly referred to as the Smith 1% tax law.) Last fall this budget commission decided that the amount certified for library purposes could not be in addition to the amount certified for school purposes but must be a part of it. This meant that the entire appropriation for the library, \$894,000, was deducted from the amount levied for school purposes. This action was taken to the Court of Appeals, but the decision of the Budget Commission was sustained. Instead of an appeal to the Supreme Court, the board of education accepted the decision for the one year and sought a remedy in legislation.

As a result, an amendment to the library law was secured, which provides that the amount certified by the library board shall be in addition to all other levies authorized by law, but not to exceed one and one-half mills and subject to no other limitation on tax rates. This amendment puts this group of libraries in a very favorable position as to adequacy and certainty of income. It means that the levy made by the library board and certified to the board of education cannot be reduced either by the board of education or by the budget commission. It is so advantageous that these libraries will need to use it wisely. The Trustees of the Cleveland Public Library feel this responsibility keenly and the Ohio Library Association is urging this same restraint on the remaining libraries. The Cleveland Public Library for the next year is asking an amount only about one-third of that permitted by law.

Bonds for building.—A special New York

act authorizes the city of Buffalo to issue \$100,000 worth of bonds "to construct, enlarge, extend, improve, alter, remodel, repair, rebuild and equip the library buildings of the Grosvenor Library."

A local law in Delaware authorizes the City of Wilmington to raise \$200,000 by bond issue to purchase from the Wilmington Institute a site for a library building. This site is to be leased to the institute. The institute is to use this money together with its own building fund of about \$300,000 to erect a library building. The law also stipulates that the institute must use the income from all its other property, that is, its old building, for maintenance. The institute is a private corporation to which the city is not allowed by the state constitution to appropriate funds. The procedure outlined obviates the constitutional difficulties and makes possible a new \$500,000 library building.

New Jersey passed an amendment extending the provisions of the public library act relating to bonds for building purposes to all municipalities (formerly limited to cities) and permitting them to issue such bonds at six per cent (formerly five).

Book Purchases.—Oregon passed an amendment making it unlawful for libraries with income under \$2,500 to buy or make accessible books except those recommended by the A. L. A. or the library or school department of the state. This is a new development in the restriction of local power. It is common practice where state aid is given to local libraries to permit the state grant and its local equivalent to be spent only for books approved by the state.

The Oregon law has no reference to state subsidy. Its object is to provide for the proper expenditure of the book fund in small libraries which cannot afford the services of a trained librarian. It was introduced by a senator who is a library trustee. It is intended also as a protection against the importunate book agent and the promiscuous gifts which are placed on the shelves to please the donors. The limitation fixed is not narrow but the nature of the restriction is important. The "Library Occurrent" of Indiana calls it "the last word in paternalistic library legislation. . . In the long run education, counsel and experience are much more valuable than 'Thou shalt not.'"

Gifts.—A New York amendment permits acceptance upon terms stipulated in the gift of a conditional gift for library or kindred educational, social and civic agencies when affiliated with a library. Heretofore a strict interpretation of the law

made impossible the acceptance of a conditional gift for library purposes, if the gift included any activities other than those pertaining to a library.

Book theft.—New York state secured a much needed amendment to the penal law relating to the buying of stolen or wrongfully received property, making it include library books and other library property acquired by second hand dealers. Heretofore it has been practically impossible to convict a book seller because the burden of proof rested so heavily upon the state. This law makes it a crime to buy such books "without ascertaining by diligent inquiry" that the seller has a legal right to dispose of them. It provides a maximum penalty of five years in prison or a fine of one thousand dollars or both according to the value of the property.

Fines and penalties.—North Carolina has made it a misdemeanor to "wilfully or maliciously detain a book" fifteen days after notice of expiration of time limit has been mailed or delivered in person.

Wyoming passed the usual type of law making it a misdemeanor to mark or damage books, etc.

New Jersey authorizes re-appropriation to the library of money received from fines, which is to be in addition to the regular appropriation. Heretofore such money was turned over to the municipality and included in anticipated revenue.

Salaries.—Information received on this subject is very incomplete, due in part to modesty of reporters. A Wyoming law says the salary of the county librarian in counties having assessed valuation of twenty-five millions or more shall be not over \$2,400. Formerly it was not fixed by law.

California has legislation pending on this subject.

In New York state a number of local acts show the disposition of the legislature to increase the salaries of court librarians:

	Former	New
	Maximum	Maximum
Elmira supreme court	\$ 800	\$1200
Utica supreme court	1000	2400
Bronx county law	not specified	3500
New York city court	" "	5000

Certification.—The certification of librarians, which has been one of the chief topics of discussion at library meetings for many years, has entered the legislative stage. It has been a feature of the California county library law for ten years, an example which had been followed in the county library laws of Illinois, Montana, Texas and Utah and this year in Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

In Minnesota the certification feature had much to do with the defeat of various amendments to the county library law.

This year New York state has prepared the way for certification of librarians in public libraries by authorizing the regents to fix standards of service in state-aided and tax-supported libraries. Any library failing to comply with the requirements shall receive no state aid and no local tax shall be levied for it. This principle has been advocated for five years by the state library association through its standing committee on the subject. The report of this committee has each year become more definite, until last year it included a complete plan which was approved and recommended to the regents. The legislation necessary for making the plan when put into operation effective has now been secured.

The recommendation of the association included a system of service grants from the state, which were intended to make the certification plan more acceptable, that is, a small state appropriation to be paid toward the salaries of librarians in places employing certificated librarians. In view of the pronounced economy program of the state administration it was thought best not to urge the service grants at present.

In Rhode Island a bill was introduced authorizing the state board of education to issue certificates to librarians and establish rules and regulations regarding the service and efficiency of libraries. It also provided service grants to libraries conforming to the rules. This bill failed, but a substitute was passed providing state aid, which is expected ultimately to lead to certification.

The Illinois certification law also failed. It prescribed the requirements for various grades of certificates and established an examining board. Certificates were to be issued by the state department of registration and education, which already has charge of the certification of a dozen or more professions, trades and occupations. It had the active support of the state library association, which claims that the plan will raise standards, equalize competition, provide systematic advancement and increase salaries.

A law like this which outlines in detail its method of operation naturally meets more opposition than the short paragraph in the New York law, which merely gives the regents permission to put the principle into effect.

The Iowa Library Association has established a system of voluntary certification with a view to future legislation. The intention is to test the plan by actual

experience and thus prepare the way for its enactment into law. Similar plans are under consideration in Minnesota and South Dakota.

Wisconsin enacted a complete certification law substantially in the form recommended by the state library association. "The plan had been worked out on three principles, the establishment of distinct grades of service, the safeguarding of the rights of those already in library work and the opportunity for anyone to enter library work by tests of his education, training and experience. It creates a public library certification board of five members, two librarians and one public library trustee appointed by the governor, one a member of the state library commission selected by the commission and one from the faculty of the state university selected by the president of the university.

There are to be four grades of certificates varying in academic and library school training and experience required. The board may issue a certificate to an applicant who does not have the prescribed training but has attainments substantially equivalent to such education and training.

The board may issue a certificate without examination to any one who has served as librarian or assistant for one year prior to January 1, 1923, if in the opinion of the board such person has demonstrated sufficient ability. A person having the required academic and library training but lacking experience may obtain license for one year and then for a second year in order to gain the experience necessary to qualify for a certificate.

After January 1, 1923, boards of public libraries supported in whole or in part by public funds, except in cities of the first class, shall not employ a librarian or a full time assistant who does not hold a library certificate. Librarians employed at that time may continue to serve without a certificate.

Librarians appointed after January 1, 1923, in cities of eight thousand or over, except in cities of the first class, must have first grade certificates; in cities of four to eight thousand, at least second grade; in cities of two to four thousand, at least third grade. The board may permit the employment of a librarian without certificate for six months, if one with certificate cannot be secured.

Public libraries maintained wholly or in part at state expense are exempt from the mandatory features of the law.

Retirement Systems.—In Connecticut, any city, borough, town or subdivision thereof may retire with pension or other

reward any employe of any public library within its limits. This is a specific interpretation of the home rule statute. Its promoters thought it best to ask only for permissive legislation at this time.

An Illinois amendment directs cities of over one hundred thousand to add all fines for over-detention of books to the employes' pension fund.

In New York state a local bill was introduced to amend the greater New York charter by extending its pension provisions to employes of all public libraries of the city. The bill died in the Cities Committee of the Senate.

Another New York state amendment authorizes the appellate division of the third and fourth departments of the supreme court to retire on half pay law librarians who have become incapacitated after twenty-five years of service. One per cent of their salary is to be paid toward a retirement fund. This amendment extends to librarians a law which has heretofore applied to clerks and stenographers since 1914. A similar law for the second department (New York city) was passed in 1913 except that under it no salary deduction is made toward a retirement fund.

These laws are practically private pension bills in view of the small number of employes who are affected thereby. The passage of one this year seems the more strange and unnecessary because these law librarians were already entitled to the benefits of a general law passed last year.

That law established an optional retirement system for all employes in the state civil service, which includes all librarians in state service. It creates various funds by state appropriation and deduction from salaries in accordance with actuarial computations. It provides for disability and superannuation retirement. The latter may take place at age sixty and must at seventy. Payments are to be made in the form of annuities, pensions and retirement allowances to the possible aggregate extent of one-half salary. This is regarded by experts as one of few scientific and sound pension systems.

State Library Commissions. — Several state library commissions were on the defensive. In Missouri a bill was introduced to abolish the commission and place its work in much curtailed form under a bureau in the new education department. It was thought by some that the work could thus be done better. It has not been ascertained who the real promoters of the scheme were. Owing to the vigorous opposition by the commission itself and the librarians of the state the bill failed to pass.

In Oklahoma a bill was defeated which aimed to consolidate the library commission, the state library and the historical society. According to the legislator introducing it, this was done at the wish of the library association and the historical society, but neither of them was in favor of it.

The South Dakota commission law received an amendment providing for restoring library property in case of fire, making the emergency building fund applicable to the state library commission, which is in temporary quarters pending erection of a new office building.

The Vermont law was extended to permit the commission to lend books to individuals as well as to groups.

State library commissions were entirely abolished in the following states, the date of establishment being given in each case: Illinois 1909, Maine 1899, Michigan 1899, Ohio 1896, Washington 1903. In each state the powers and duties of the commission are transferred to the state library. Considered purely from the standpoint of organization, this ought to be an improvement. A single state agency for libraries should be sufficient and may be more economical and efficient than two. It may also be just the opposite. State libraries had existed in some states for many years prior to the establishment of library commissions, but most of them were intended merely for the use of the legislature and politics dominated their personnel and their methods. Many of them were therefore not regarded as competent to perform that larger service for the state as a whole which came to be recognized as the proper function of a library commission. Meanwhile, state libraries have improved, but it remains to be seen whether they have grown sufficiently in ability and vision to carry on this important work and also whether this different form of organization is more economical and efficient.

State Libraries. — A number of state libraries were hit by the reorganizers. For some it means enlargement of their power and responsibility, for some a curtailment and some just a change. In Illinois the powers and duties of the abolished library extension commission are vested in the state librarian, who is the secretary of state. He shall establish a general library division, library extension division, a division of archives, and others as he chooses. A significant change is that heads of divisions are exempt from civil service, whereas the entire executive staff of the abolished commission was under state civil service.

This act is in accordance with the gen-

eral movement toward consolidating commissions and offices in Illinois. A thoroughgoing consolidation would have included the supreme court library, the state historical library and the legislative reference bureau, but political considerations played their part there as they did in the civil service exemptions. As the personnel of the new executive staff is practically the same as that of the two offices which are combined, it probably does not for the present mean much change in the work now being done.

Maine also enacted a law consolidating the state library and the library commission. State librarian as formerly to be appointed by governor and council for five (formerly three years) salary \$2,800 (formerly \$1,800 plus \$300 as secretary of the library commission).

It provides for legislative reference bureau and index bureau, which two had existed before, and bureau of library extension. The library commission is abolished and its activities without change transferred to the extension bureau. The commission was established in 1899 "to encourage the establishment of free public libraries, to select the books to be purchased for traveling libraries and to advise the state librarian in reference thereto." These duties were enlarged in 1911. Under the former law the state librarian served as secretary of the commission. The new arrangement therefore does not mean a change in activities but a simpler and more effective organization under one board instead of two.

A resolution was passed appointing a committee of four which shall at an expense not exceeding \$5,000 procure plans, specifications and estimates for a state library building.

In Ohio, where the position of state librarian has been a "political football" for ten years, the state library association has been vigorously active in behalf of a change. In reply to the demand from all sides to "take it out of politics" both candidates for governor last fall had made statements to the association that in their appointments to the commission and the librarianship only training and experience would be considered, rather than political expediency.

Then came the governor's plan for a fundamental reorganization of the entire state government sub-ordinating all the work of the state under eight or nine heads. The reorganization code was passed but may still be subject to a referendum.

This reorganization code creates in the department of education a state library board composed of the director of educa-

tion and four others appointed by the governor. The board has power to appoint and remove the state librarian, who is to be in charge of the library service of the state with power to appoint and remove assistants. Under the board he shall exercise all powers and perform all duties formerly vested in the state board of library commissioners and the legislative reference department.

This plan is in keeping with the Ohio law under which about twenty of the large libraries of the state, including the largest, operate under school boards, the library board being appointed by and responsible to the school board. But the law does not make the new state library board responsible to the education board. The possibilities of politics in the state library remain inasmuch as the governor still appoints four of the five members of the state library board. The sincerity of his campaign promise will be tested when the first appointments are made.

Washington, "to promote efficiency, order and economy," made a radical change in her state government, passing "the administrative code," which grants wide powers to an administrative board. It places the state library under an administrative committee consisting of superintendent of public instruction, commissioner of public lands and state treasurer (formerly the state library commission consisting of governor, judges (9) of the supreme court and attorney general; also an advisory board consisting of superintendent of public instruction, two persons appointed by the governor on his own initiative and two others, one recommended by the state historical society and one by the state federation of women's clubs).

It abolishes sixty-five or more boards, commissions, etc., including the library commission and the advisory board and transfers to the new committee all powers and duties of the former commission and the advisory board except those relating to the state law library.

Ex-officio library boards or committees do not usually make for efficiency and yet this change simplifies administration by making the state librarian responsible to one body of three members instead of two boards with a combined membership of fifteen. The new committee has organized with the superintendent of public instruction as president, the former state librarian continuing as secretary. The state library will therefore function as a sub-division of the education department. As such it is expected that its work will be placed on a par with that of the schools and not serve as a school library annex.

A separate administrative committee, made up of the justices of the supreme court, the attorney general and the secretary of state, is to succeed the state library commission in the management of the state law library, the state law librarian acting as secretary of the committee.

In California the state board of library trustees is abolished and the library placed in the department of finance. The head of this department succeeds to the powers of the state board of control, which with the civil service had left little authority to the library board. The change therefore means practically no difference in the administration of the state library.

State Aid.—Rhode Island amended her education law to provide state aid in the form of salaries to libraries with "means not sufficient to maintain proper library service." It is to be paid to librarians whose salaries do not exceed \$500 and not over \$400 to any librarian. An appropriation of \$3,000 is made for this purpose. This amendment was passed as a substitute for the certification bill, which is noted under that head.

A Vermont amendment empowers the state library commission to take possession of books bought with state money where a town or village fails to make the annual library appropriation required by law.

County Libraries.—The county library has received more consideration than any other library subject. A complete county law was passed for the first time in Kansas, Missouri, New York, Ohio and Tennessee. Failures of a complete law are recorded in Idaho and Washington, and of amendments in Iowa and Minnesota. In Washington, however, the new administrative code makes it possible for county libraries to be established under the rules of the state library.

Bills to establish county libraries were ready but were not introduced because the prospect was not promising in Oklahoma, Georgia, which has tried once and failed, and Colorado, which has tried twice and failed. Georgia will try again this summer to get the necessary constitutional amendment which will permit the levy of a county library tax. Then efforts will be made for a county library law.

In Indiana, two amendments were passed relating to the county library tax. These are noted under the heading, "Tax Levy." Another increases the number of county library commissioners from seven to nine to relieve quorum difficulties which had existed.

South Dakota secured several important amendments making establishments man-

datory on petition of forty per cent of voters, petition to be signed in at least sixty per cent of taxing districts affected (formerly it was permissive on petition of twenty per cent of voters); county librarian shall act as secretary of county library board and have qualifications and training approved by state commission; when a local library serves the county under contract, the county shall have two representatives on the library board, if it pays twenty per cent of the maintenance cost.

Wisconsin, which was one of the first to legislate on the county library, 1897, added a number of important amendments. These are in the form of additions to a general law relating to libraries which is applicable to other political units such as city, village and town. The more important features are: 1, a new provision for the establishment and maintenance of a new library system including appointment of staff. A county board extending financial aid to an existing library in return for service shall appoint two representatives on the library board when such aid equals or exceeds one-third of library's income (formerly one representative for one-sixth of income); 2, exempting upon application a taxing unit which is giving adequate aid to a local library; 3, county board may use Milwaukee system of charging back in proportion to service rendered; 4, county librarian to hold first grade certificate; 5, old county traveling library may be transformed to system established under new law.

A Wyoming amendment provides for establishing branches and book distributing stations for people living out of town, wherein the county library is located. This is to be done on petition of ten electors who must agree to provide accommodations and proper trusteeship for property entrusted to them. Another law is noted under salaries.

Comprehensive laws were passed in Kansas, Missouri, New York, Ohio and Tennessee. They are uniform on only a few points: all provide for a contract system; all exempt districts with libraries, if they desire it; all but Kansas require annual reports to the state library agency; all but New York specify that the librarian shall attend library meetings at library expense (in Ohio the library pays only railroad expense); all but New York specify that the library fund shall be in the custody of the county treasurer (in Tennessee the county trustees) subject to the order of the library board (in Tennessee the county librarian). These points

of agreement should be borne in mind and added to the variations in the laws of these five states.

The variations are as follows:

Kansas.—County commissioners may establish county library or contract for use of an established library after majority vote by county. Question shall be submitted to vote on petition of ten per cent of taxpayers. May levy tax of not over one-half mill except on territory already taxed for a local library. Library to be controlled by board of three members appointed by county commissioners. Librarian is appointed by board.

Missouri.—On petition of one hundred taxpayers county court shall submit question of establishment and levying tax of not over two mills to voters outside of places already maintaining libraries.

On majority vote a county library board of five members shall be appointed consisting of county superintendent of schools and four appointed by county court. On a majority vote a special tax of one and one-half mills may be levied for five years for library building fund. State commission to visit county library and make report on library to county board.

This bill had been introduced by the state library association into each legislature since 1915. It almost failed again this year but through the efforts of numerous organizations it was passed on the last day of the session.

New York.—The New York law is in the form of an amendment to the general education law relating to libraries and some of its provisions are common to all public libraries, such as those relating to the number of members (five) on the library board and the certification of librarians.

A county library may be established by vote of electors or of board of supervisors. Vote shall be taken when twenty-five taxpayers so petition. May levy library tax of one-third mill to one mill. Shall levy not less than one-half mill in county with assessed valuation under one hundred million dollars. Chief administrative office to be in county seat unless another city has twenty per cent larger population; not to be moved by reason of change in population.

County libraries have been possible in New York for ten years, but none have been established on account of the double taxation they would impose on cities already having libraries.

Ohio.—County libraries may be established on majority vote of electors. Election to be held on petition of twenty-five per cent of the electors. To be managed

by board of five trustees, two appointed by common pleas judge and three by county commissioners. Library board shall levy annual library tax of two-tenths mill to one mill. County librarian must have certificate from state board of library examiners, consisting of librarians of the two public libraries of the largest circulation, director of the state library service and two persons chosen by the state library commission.

Tennessee.—County court may establish county free library for territory outside of cities and towns with libraries. A state board of library examiners is created consisting of state librarian, state superintendent of education, public librarians of four leading cities and president of state library association. County librarian must have certificate from this board.

A board of supervisors of the county library is established consisting of judge and clerk of county court and mayor of county seat; this board shall elect four persons, who, with the county superintendent of schools as the fifth member, shall serve as county library board and supervise the library. County libraries shall be under the general supervision of the state librarian, who shall visit them and call annual meetings of county librarians. County court is to levy annual library tax of not over one mill.

In the *Library Journal* of September 15, 1920, 45:727-31. W. J. Hamilton has a valuable article in which he states twelve points which he regards as desirable in a good county library law. Measuring these seven enumerated laws according to Mr. Hamilton's standard gives these results:

1. Library board to fix tax rate: Yes, within fixed limit in Kansas and Ohio.
2. Tax rate with fixed minimum: Yes, in New York and Ohio.
3. Establishment mandatory under certain conditions: Yes, after election in Kansas, Missouri and Ohio.
4. Permanence of library once established: Yes, in Kansas, Ohio and Tennessee; Missouri and New York provide for disestablishment.
5. Provision for new county library or contract with city: Yes, in all.
6. County representation on city board under contract: Not provided by any.
7. Certification of county librarians: Yes, in Ohio and Tennessee. Authorized in New York.
8. Exemption of districts with libraries if they desire it: Yes, in all.
9. Required attendance of librarians at state and district meetings at county expense: Yes, in all except New York.

10. Right of Library Board to borrow money for building purposes: Not specified by any.

11. Permission for difference in tax rates in central community and outlying county: Not specified by any.

12. Annual report to state library agency: Yes, in all but Kansas.

Federal Legislation.—There is an unusually large amount of federal legislation pending which if enacted will affect libraries and librarians. On account of its volume and the uncertainty of its passage only a brief statement about each is here included.

Hospital Library Service.—The sundry civil appropriation bill passed by the last congress includes \$100,000 (available July 1) for library books, magazines and papers for beneficiaries of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance. This provides for continuing the hospital library service inaugurated by the A. L. A.

Navy Appropriation Bill.—This includes \$589,500 for educational training and libraries for the navy. Among the objects specified are "Instructors and equipment for vocational training, the maintenance of libraries ashore and afloat, including salaries of necessary librarians, purchase of books, magazines, newspapers, and library supplies."

Library Information Service.—A bill creates a Division of Library Service in the Bureau of Education. Its duties will be to increase the efficiency of American libraries by providing current information concerning government activities; collect and organize information regarding printed matter issued by the federal government and provide digests of this material.

This service existed six months in the Interior Department under the emergency fund. The bill as amended calls for an appropriation of \$18,700. It has been thrice endorsed by the A. L. A., by the League of Women Voters, by numerous civic organizations, as well as by two secretaries of the Interior and Vice-President Coolidge. It is the one so admirably defended in the Senate January 14, 1921, by Senator McLean of Connecticut.

Towner-Sterling Bill.—This creates a federal department of education with a secretary in the President's cabinet. Its object is to encourage the states in the promotion of education including "the extension and adaptation of public libraries for educational purposes."

Reclassification of Government Service.—Two competing bills on this subject are before Congress, each classifying the civilian positions of the government for the purpose of standardizing salaries. Each

of these embodies to some extent the recommendations from committees of the various divisions of the public service concerned. They both provide substantial increases of salary. The passage of either would improve the status of librarians in the capitol city and probably have a good effect on library service in general.

WILLIAM F. YUST,
Chairman.

REPORT OF PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

BOOK WAGONS AND BOOK LISTS

Lots of people are book-hungry. Lots of men and women and boys and girls, and lots of communities, need books, but have no books to use and no recognized way to get them.

The individual book is news nowadays as never before. Newspapers editorialize and featurize books by name. Magazines and newspapers issue special book pages and bookshelf sections devoted to human-interest appraisal of the individual book. Ministers preach about new books. The book slogans, "Buy a book a week," and "Read a book a week," and "Take a book along," are based on this recognized public interest in the single book.

Library circulations and the demands of the public for book service from public libraries are growing faster than library incomes.

What is the American Library Association going to do about this book hunger, this book interest, and this library-income hunger?

Here is the Publicity Committee's answer, submitted for your approval:

(1)—*An A. L. A. Library book-wagon*

Let us show how book hunger may be filled, spread the gospel of library service and book distribution, capitalize book interest, and obtain better public support for libraries, by sending out an A. L. A. library book-wagon. Some details:

(a) The A. L. A. book-wagon, or car, should be a demonstration reading-room, with shelves, carefully selected books, a reading-table, and chairs.

(b) Personnel: 1. An organizer who knows books and library work intimately, has a magnetic personality and natural dramatic powers of leadership, with ability to address and enthuse audiences. 2. Ad